

III. GREENSPACE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Objectives for the greenspace system were drafted by the Greenspace Commission as the first step in the Plan. These Goals and Objectives have two purposes. First, state law requires the adoption of goals and objectives, as a part of a Comprehensive Plan, that will guide decisions about the physical, cultural and economic development of the community. The Greenspace Goals were submitted to the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee during the 1993 plan update process, and were included in the Comprehensive Plan draft that will be submitted to the Planning Commission.

Beyond their legal function, these Goals and Objectives summarize what greenspace means to the Lexington-Fayette County community. The Goals and Objectives describe the scope of the greenspace system, the elements it must encompass, and the functions it must perform if it is to accomplish the aim of preserving the Bluegrass identity. As the Greenspace Plan was being created, the Goals and Objectives were used as a way to guide decisions about what was important to include in it. They helped the Greenspace Commission steer a clear course through a complicated subject, towards a vision of what Lexington-Fayette County can become: a community that holds on to the best of its heritage as it builds its future.

GREENSPACE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Greenspace Mission Statement & Primary Goal

Develop a greenspace system that preserves the identity of the Bluegrass and provides a framework for regional planning.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Goal	To develop and promote a greenspace system as a basic framework for resource protection, open space planning and urban growth management.
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Committee Task	✓ Establish a coordinated strategy to address greenspace issues and growth management issues by adoption of the Greenspace Plan as part of the Urban County's Comprehensive Plan and use of the
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greenspace system in development of the next Comprehensive Plan Update.

- Objectives**
- Utilize the greenspace system as a framework for directing urban development patterns, further articulating the Urban Service Area concept and implementing it through proper utility and infrastructure planning.
 - Encourage and, where appropriate, require sensitive use of the land, making conservation of natural resources and development mutually beneficial, and thereby achieving an ecologically sustainable relationship between humans and the environment.
 - Coordinate parkway and scenic corridor planning with transportation planning and implementation, protecting natural resources adjacent to existing streets and planning future roads to complement and enhance views of the Bluegrass.

BLUEGRASS IDENTITY

Goal To preserve, protect and enhance the Greenspace elements that give the Bluegrass Region its unique identity, including natural areas, scenic areas, scenic vistas, places of historic and cultural significance, environmentally sensitive areas, geologic hazard areas, and water resources.

**Committee
Tasks**

- ✓ *Conduct a county-wide inventory of each of the above-named elements, and identify all elements with appropriate graphic techniques.*
- ✓ *Establish priorities for the protection, preservation, or enhancement of the most significant elements identified in the inventory.*

- Objectives**
- Encourage open space preservation and development through policies such as scenic easements, urban cluster housing, and well defined buffer areas or compatible transitional land uses at the urban-rural interface.
 - Seek to incorporate, where appropriate, native species planting strategies in order to preserve and enhance an understanding of our natural heritage and to minimize maintenance and replacements costs.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

- Goal** **To protect, preserve and, where appropriate, enhance the agricultural uses within the Rural Service Area.**
- Committee Tasks**
- ✓ *Identify and map rural land uses and prime land and soils; and develop criteria for prioritizing their preservation and protection.*
 - ✓ *Develop strategies to enhance the long-term economic viability of significant agricultural lands or farms, including policies that provide tax incentives and enhance the competitive capabilities of farms.*
- Objectives**
- Discourage rural residential development on prime agricultural lands, viewsheds, or historic or scenic corridors, using policies such as purchase of development rights, overlay zoning, and minimum rural lot acreage of 30 or more acres, as well as conservation or scenic easements and other innovative methods of land and resource preservation.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Goal** **To preserve, protect and enhance open space for passive and active recreational opportunities.**
- Committee Task**
- ✓ *Develop management plans designating (in general, yet site specific terms) the appropriate uses of parks, parkways, greenways and other public greenspace properties.*
- Objectives**
- Provide recreational open space close to where citizens live and work, by developing neighborhood parks and making public school grounds an integral part of the greenspace system.
 - Strengthen and/or establish pedestrian linkages and provide for an unbroken future greenway system linking neighborhoods, parks, schools and other significant points of interest throughout the city and county.
 - Preserve, enhance and where appropriate reclaim streambeds and old roadway and abandoned railroad corridors for pedestrian, cycling and other uses as well as linking elements in a greenspace system.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

- Goal** **To utilize and manage open space to provide significant educational and economic opportunities.**
- Committee Task** ✓ Involve public and private school representatives in development of the greenspace system and encourage their use of it for educational as well as recreational purposes.
- Objectives** ■ Develop a diverse system of publicly accessible open spaces to enhance environmental education opportunities.
- Develop the public understanding that the character of the Bluegrass Region and specifically the maintenance of open space are fundamental to the region's economic growth and stability; they strengthen tourism, attract new businesses and enhance the satisfaction of those living and working in the Bluegrass Region.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Goal** **To encourage cooperation and communication throughout the region in order to promote greenspace, environmental protection and land conservation.**
- Committee Task** ✓ *Enhance regional communication through the establishment of a regional greenspace steering committee and/or other appropriate techniques.*
- Objectives** ■ Encourage and cooperate in the development of a regional greenspace inventory and regional growth management plan to accomplish greenspace goals at a regional level.
- Coordinate land use, transportation and utilities decisions to maintain the essence of the Bluegrass Landscape in corridors extending beyond Fayette County boundaries.